

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 03566 01 OF 02 051502Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

EURE-00 STR-04 L-03 OIC-02 XMB-02 /092 W

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P R 051444Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 0484

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0009

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 03566

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: TRADE COMMITTEE FEB. 3-4: AGRICULTURE STUDY,
GOVERNMENT PURCHASING, AND OTHER ITEMS

1. OECD AGRICULTURE STUDY: TC HAD RELATIVELY BRIEF PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AGRICULTURE STUDY, REPORT OF WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED BY SECRETARIAT AND FORWARDED TO XCSS. NUMBER OF DELS PROPOSED THAT JOINT WORKING PARTY OF TRADE AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES (JWP) COULD CONSIDER PARTICULAR AREAS OF STUDY IN MORE DETAIL (CHIEF OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE SIMONTOV. IN PRESEN"TA-TION TO TC, INDICATED AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WISHED JWP TO TAKE UP SUBJECTS OF MARKET UNCERTAINTY AND LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS). EC COMMISSION REP INDICATED CONSIDERABLE HESITANCY ABOUT ENGAGING IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF STUDY IN OECD WHILE WORK GOING ON IN MTN AND LONDON, SUGGEST-ING JWP COULD PURSUE QUESTION OF REVISIONS NEEDED TO MAKE REPORT MORE ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE. JAPAN ALSO WAS HESITANT TO DISCUSS IN DEPTH FOR SAME REASONS. SWISS DEL PROPOSED JWP BE ENLARGED WITH AID OFFICIALS TO ENABLE INTEGRATED APPROACH, AND SUGGESTED STUDY BE CON-
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PAGE 02 OECD P 03566 01 OF 02 051502Z

SIDERED AS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO EVENTUAL CIEC DISCUS-

SIONS ON AGRICULTURE. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND NOTED POOR OUTLOOK FOR EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS TO COMMERCIAL MARKETS FORESEEN BY STUDY AND QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS DID NOT INDICATE THAT EXISTING POLICIES OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES WERE NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD ONES. BOTH ALSO SUPPORTED FURTHER EXAMINATION BY JWP. US DEL SUGGESTED NUMBER OF AREAS WHERE FURTHER WORK WOULD BE USEFUL, INCLUDING DEEPER EXAMINATION REASONS FOR INCREASED INSTABILITY IN MARKETS, POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACT OF INCREASED SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITHIN OECD, NEED TO DIFFERENTIATE MORE BETWEEN HIGH COST AND LOW COST PRODUCERS, TECHNIQUES TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF LDC PRODUCTION BY FOOD AID, MORE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITY OF SURPLUSES IN LONGER TERM, AND MORE ATTENTION TO THE POPULATION GROWTH FACTOR IN PROJECTIONS.

2. GOVERNMENT PURCHASING: CONSENSUS OF TC WAS THAT WORK TO REACH AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PURCHASING WAS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE AND THAT OECD WAS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR CONTINUATION OF THIS WORK AT PRESENT TIME. GROUP AGREED THAT PAUSE SHOULD BE MADE IN TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF ACTIVITY TO ALLOW REFLECTION BY GOVERNMENTS AND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT RESOLVING DIFFERENCES ON KEY ISSUES. OECD SECRETARY GENERAL WILL ISSUE LETTER TO ALL DELEGATIONS NOTING THESE CONCLUSIONS AND OFFERING SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AS DELS MAY FIND APPROPRIATE. EC COMMISSION REP LED OFF DISCUSSION BY STATING EC DETERMINATION TO REACH AGREEMENT AND BELIEF THAT ALL DELS SHOULD TAKE TIME TO REFLECT AND DO HOMEWORK NECESSARY TO RESOLVE BASIC DIFFERENCES. US DEL SAID DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN REDUCED TO ESSENTIAL POLICY ISSUES AND TIME WAS NEEDED TO ALLOW GUIDANCE TO BE FORMULATED THAT WOULD ENABLE EXPERTS TO MAKE MORE PROGRESS. DURING PAUSE IN TECHNICAL WORK US WOULD EXPECT

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PAGE 01 OECD P 03566 02 OF 02 051531Z

42

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INFORMAL CONTACTS TO TAKE PLACE, AND US WOULD MAKE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AT NEXT TC MEETING. JAPANESE DEL FAVORED CONTINUATION OF WORK AT TECHNICAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO CONSIDER RECENTLY-MADE PROPOSALS AND SAID GOJ WOULD ITSELF BE MAKING PROPOSALS IN AREA OF DEROGATIONS. FRENCH DEL STATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR CONTINUING MEETINGS OF WORKING PARTY DURING PERIOD OF REFLECTION, IN INTEREST OF "TRANSPARENCY" AND MAINTAINING MOMENTUM. OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION WAS CONSENSUS THAT DELS SHOULD USE PAUSE WITH MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS TO AVOID LOSING BENEFIT OF WORK ALREADY DONE, AND THAT WORKING PARTY COULD MEET WHEN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SHOWED SOME RESULTS TO PREPARE GROUND FOR NEXT MEETING OF TRADE COMMITTEE. POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL MEETING OF TC TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT WAS LEFT OPEN.

3. EXPORT CREDITS: TC TOOK NOTE OF WORK UNDER WAY IN EXPORT CREDITS GROUP AND ENCOURAGED GROUP TO EXTEND THE BASIS OF COOPERATION IN THIS SECTOR BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE COUNTRIES AND SUBJECTS INVOLVED. US DEL MADE ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 OECD P 03566 02 OF 02 051531Z

SUBSTANTIAL INTERVENTION, EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR WORK BEING DONE TO IMPROVE INFORMATION SYSTEM AND TO REACH SECTOR UNDERSTANDINGS, AND URGING EXPORT CREDITS GROUP MOVE FORWARD IN BOTH AREAS. FRENCH DEL EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE COSTS OF FINANCING IN VARIOUS EXPORT CREDIT GROUP ACTIVITIES. SWEDEN URGED THAT GENERAL QUESTION OF COST ESCALATION INSURANCE SHOULD BE TAKEN UP.

4. INTERNAL POLICIES: TC NOTED TCWP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND AGREED, ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING CONSULTATION PROCEDURES OF OECD PLUS NORMAL COURTESY, THAT THE BEST

POSSIBLE RECEPTION SHOULD BE AFFORDED TO REQUESTS FOR
CONSULTATIONS ON THE TRADE EFFECTS OF SPECIFIC
INTERNAL MEASURES.

5. IMPORT PROCEDURES: TC NOTED TCWP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TC AGREED TO MEET AGAIN DURING
LAST WEEK IN JUNE. POSSIBILITY WAS LEFT OPEN OF
EARLIER MEETING (I.E. IN MAY, BEFORE MINISTERIAL) IF
THIS SHOULD BE REQUIRED. TURNER

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